* Undertaking energy conservation measures.

* Reducing technical losses in distribution. The Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) is designed for the attainment of this objective.

* Undertaking Renovation and Modernization (R&M) of existing power stations which combined with improved Operation and Maintenance practices would lead to higher availability and generation.

* Export of power from surplus to deficit region through the gradual development of a National Grid to optimize utilization of generating capacity on an all India basis.

* Installation of captive generating plants. The new Electricity Bill provides for a liberal framework for construction of captive power plants freely.

Selling power of consumers at exorbitant price by SEBs

1140. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Electricity Boards of Electricity Utilities purchase power mainly form NTPC and NHPC at comparatively cheaper rates and then sell it to the consumers at exorbitant price;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to protect the interests of consumers particularly the domestic consumers of power in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) State electricity Boards/ Electricity Utilities purchase power mainly from National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and National Hydroelectric Power Corporaton (NHPC). The average cost of generation of energy for the year 2001-02 in case of operating projects work out to about Rs. 1.43/kwh in case of NTPC and about Rs. 1.10/kwh in case of NHPC. As against this the average cost of supply for the year 2001-2002 of the various utilities was 349.85 paise/kwh.

The tariff for various categories of consumers during the period 2001-2002 were as under :

Amount in paise/kwh

Industrial	Commercial	Railways	Domestic
378.67	426.32	449.25	195.62

(e) The Electricity Act, 2003 provides for several specific measures to safe-guard consumer interests. The Act requires every distribution licensee to establish a forum for redressal of grievances of the consumers within six months. Non-redressal of grievances can be represented before the Ombudsman to be appointed or designated by the State Commisison, who will settle the grievance of the consumer within a stipulated period. The Act further stipulates that the Regulatory Commissions will specificy standards of performance of licensees, non-compliance of which makes the licensees liable to pay compensation to the affected person. The Act also provides for constitution of district level committtees to review the quality of power supply and consumer satisfaction.

Financial assistance provided by Japan to Tripura Power Project

1141. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Japan has given financial aid for a 500 MW Tripura Power Project and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it would be the one of the biggest power plants in the North-East and would sell surplus power to Bangladesh, Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, West Bengal, besides Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The Tripura Gas Based Combined Power Project of NEEPCO at the total project cost of Rs. 1725.68 crores has been posed to Government of Japan for JBIC loan assistance under FY 2003 JBIC laon package. Government of Japan is yet to take a decision of selection of the project.